# UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009



**Saturday, January 24, 2026**

## Wikipedia solicitations

From time to time, yours truly receives unsolicited offers to compose a Wikipedia page for him. Here is an excerpt from a recent one:

*I hope this note finds you well. I am writing because I came across your academic and research work in... [information copied from my online CV]*

*I wanted to ask if you would be interested in having a Wikipedia page that summarizes your career and contributions. If you wish, I could help identify publicly available, independent sources and prepare a neutral outline for your review, consistent with Wikipedia's content and sourcing guidelines.*

*Thank you for considering this, and I would be glad to provide more information if you are interested.*

*Best regards,*
*Benjamin*
*Wikipedia Editor*

Wikipedia suggests forwarding such solicitations to them at:

paid-en-wp@wikipedia.org

which I did. I received this reply:

*Dear ---,*

*Thank you for reporting this. There are many paid editing companies out there that look through recently-declined drafts, or actively contact people with public careers and contact information (like professors/academics) to send this kind of solicitation.* ***Very few of them comply with Wikipedia's paid-editing policies, most are outright scams, and none are endorsed by Wikipedia, no matter what they may say.*** *Feel free to ignore future emails like this, and we recommend marking them as spam.*

*Sincerely,*
*331dot*
*The conflict of interest volunteer response team*

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That said, this blog post is not an endorsement of Wikipedia as a research source. It can be useful for non-controversial topics. In today's world of political controversy, however, I would be careful about Wikipedia interpretations:

**The Council of UC Faculty Associations**

- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
- Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall
- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix
- Judge rules Trump demands of UCLA must be made public

**Remaking the University**

- Minneapolis Lessons for Higher Education - 1/31/2026
- Achieving Our University - 1/20/2026
- Liner Note 46. On Direct Faculty Control of Universities - 1/17/2026

**Higher Ed. News & Commentary**

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
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- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
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- Council of UC Faculty Associations

**Other Faculty Organizations**

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

**Topics**

THE FREEPRESS
NEWSLETTERS
ACCOUNT
UPGRADE
Wikipedia Editors Are Helping Iran Rewrite History
An investigation into Wikipedia editing patterns reveals a yearslong, coordinated campaign to sanitize the Islamic Republic's human rights record.
By Ashley Rindsberg
01.20.26 — Tech and Business
FOLLOW TOPIC

Source: https://www.thefp.com/p/wikipedia-editors-are-helping-iran-rewrite-history

Note that if you ask AI sources about controversial topics, they may pull information from Wikipedia.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud

**Friday, January 23, 2026**

## I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 9

From Pasadena Now: *The Rose Bowl Operating Company announced the groundbreaking of the South End Zone Field Club, a $30 million strategic investment that reinforces the stadium's commitment to thoughtful modernization while preserving the traditions that have defined college football's most iconic venue for more than a century.*

*The project includes new field-level premium seating and amenities while preserving the timeless historic elements and angles that have defined America's Stadium. It is intentionally designed to complement the historic bowl, balancing innovation with stewardship while safeguarding the qualities that have made it college football's best stage. The South End Zone Field Club project is expected to be completed by the start of the 2026 college football season.*

*"The Rose Bowl Stadium continues to honor its past by investing in its future," said Jens Weiden, CEO of the Rose Bowl Stadium in the Thursday, January 15 announcement. "This project ensures that the most important moments in sports and entertainment will be staged in a setting that reflects both tradition and progress. We are excited for the project and for UCLA, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, our music partners and their supporters, who will be the beneficiaries of a world-class experience." ...*

Full story at https://pasadenanow.com/main/pasadenas-rose-bowl-stadium-breaks-ground-on-30-million-south-end-zone-field-club.

**Translation: The Rose Bowl folks are saying they're acting in good faith on the assumption that UCLA is staying put and UCLA can't say they're not making desirable improvements in ongoing litigation.**

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

## Straws in the Wind - Part 231

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Is small beautiful in the current higher ed climate?

Climate Proposal

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Watch the Regents Meetings of January 20, 2026

Straws in the Wind - Part 236 (Compact 2.0)

Former UCLA Law Dean Named Head of Columbia

From Inside Higher Ed: *Florida is now the second state to drop its requirement that lawyers in the state hold a degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association... The Florida Supreme Court, which sets law-licensure requirements, said the decision is designed to open the door for more law school accreditors. "The rule changes create the opportunity for additional entities to carry out an accrediting and gatekeeping function on behalf of the Court," the Jan. 15 opinion read...*

*The Texas Supreme Court made a similar decision last week, and Ohio and Tennessee's high courts are also considering minimizing the ABA's oversight of lawyers in their states. Republicans, including Florida attorney general James Uthmeier, who called the ABA "a captured, far-left organization," have targeted the ABA, which accredits the vast majority of law schools in the country, as part of a broader crusade against diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Last year, the ABA suspended its DEI standards in response to conservative criticism...*

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/01/16/following-texas-florida-drops-aba-oversight-lawyers.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics

## Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge - Part 111

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard spent nearly $1 million in federal lobbying in 2025 — its highest total in more than two decades — as the University faced mounting financial and regulatory pressure from the Trump administration. According to lobbying disclosures released Tuesday, Harvard spent $230,000 in lobbying between October and December, bringing its total lobbying expenditures for the year to $950,000. That figure is more than 50 percent higher than the $620,000 the University spent in 2024 and surpasses the previous record of $890,000 in 2007.*

*The filing reflects a sharp rise in lobbying expenditures since President Donald Trump's inauguration and Harvard's efforts to respond to federal scrutiny affecting research funding, immigration, and higher education finance...*

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/1/21/harvard-record-high-lobbying-2025/.


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Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, politics

**Thursday, January 22, 2026**

## Bond May Be Coming

No, not the secret agent. But there may be a $23 billion California bond that would fund a new state-created research foundation which would, in turn, funnel research grants to California universities including UC.

The idea behind the bond would be to make up for the pullback in federal support for research.

At this point, however, we are a long way from such a bond actually being issued. A bill in the legislature - Senate Bill 895 - would need to be enacted to propose the bond and the foundation to voters. Voters would have to approve the proposition.

One enticement for voters is that the bill requires that any drugs developed through research financed by the bond would be offered to Californians at a discount.*

State Senator Scott Wiener (Dem., San Francisco) seems to be a major player with regard to the bond proposal. He is also a candidate to replace Nancy Pelosi in Congress when she retires at the end of her current term.

SB 895 can be found at https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB895/2025.

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*https://www.dailycal.org/news/state/legislation-for-science-research-funding-has-a-new-side-effect-lower-medicine-costs/article_a49c142c-e4c6-4930-a29c-cbbb57fdb72d.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: legislature, politics, UC

## Straws in the Wind - Part 230

From Bloomberg MSN: *For the second straight year, some highly selective colleges are reporting lower Black and Hispanic enrollment than before the Supreme Court ruled against racial preferences in admissions. In a Bloomberg analysis of data from 27 elite schools, all but two reported a smaller share of Black freshmen in fall 2025 than in fall 2023, the last class admitted before the affirmative action ban. Some 21 schools saw reduced Hispanic enrollment among first-year students over that period. At the same time, more than half the schools reported equal or higher Asian enrollment in the 2025 freshman class compared to 2023. The lawsuits that led to the Supreme Court decision on affirmative action argued that the practice*


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*discriminated against Asian applicants to Harvard University and the University of North Carolina.*

*The figures show the ongoing impact the affirmative action ban has had on diversity on elite campuses. And as the White House threatens to block access to federal funding for schools it says are using racial preferences in admissions, the data may help deflect scrutiny from the Trump administration.*

*The continued decline in Black students was especially stark. At Harvard, Black students comprised around 11% of the freshman class this year, down 3 points from 2024. The California Institute of Technology saw Black students plunge from about 5% of the freshman class in fall 2024 to 1.6% this academic year. Princeton, where Black enrollment held steady at around 9% in 2024, saw that share drop to 5% for the class that entered this past fall...*

Full story at https://www.msn.com/en-us/education-and-learning/higher-education/college-racial-diversity-drops-again-as-trump-ramps-up-scrutiny/ar-AA1UcUWo.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: CalTech, diversity, Harvard, politics, Princeton U, U of North Carolina

## It's hard to keep the lid on - Part 9 (and now it's off)

Blog readers may recall the case of award-winning Prof. Priyanga Amarasekare which was tracked on this blog under the heading, "It's hard to keep the lid on." She was suspended as a tenured faculty member and subject to other penalties, although - despite significant attention on campus - exactly what had occurred or was occurring was never clear.

When we posted about the agenda of the January 20-21, 2026 Regents meetings, we noted an item about dismissal of a faculty member from UCLA to be heard in open session. Although tenured faculty who are up for dismissal have the right to appeal to the Regents, and to have an open session, most cases are quietly settled without such appeals and appeals in open session are extremely rare.

It was not known at the time we posted the preliminary agenda for the Regents - or until now - who the individual targeted for dismissal was. It turned out to be Prof. Amarasekare. Ironically, also on the January agenda was an item aimed at speeding up the process of faculty discipline.

Prof. Amarasekare did not appear at the open hearing on the morning of January 21. No lawyer representing her appeared or was referenced at the open session. However, there was reference over a year ago to litigation, so the Regents' decision may not be the final step in this affair.

Our past coverage can be found at the links below:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2021/04/ucla-faculty-win-8-guggenheim.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/01/its-hard-to-keep-lid-on.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/01/its-hard-to-keep-lid-on-part-2.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/02/its-hard-to-keep-lid-on-part-3.html;https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/03/its-hard-to-keep-lid-on-part-4.html;https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/09/its-hard-to-keep-lid-on-part-5.html;https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/10/its-hard-to-keep-lid-on-part-6.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/03/its-hard-to-keep-lid-on-part-7-national.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/10/its-hard-to-keep-lid-on-part-8.html.

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The open Regents hearing is at: (just under 20 minutes)


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► 2022 (719)
► 2021 (710)
► 2020 (914)
► 2019 (671)
► 2018 (595)
► 2017 (666)
► 2016 (715)
► 2015 (765)
► 2014 (704)
► 2013 (776)
► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)


**Contributors**

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgAmZMAXvR0.

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Note: We will cover other parts of the the January Regents as time permits.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

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